

State Quality Improvement Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2008

Attendees: Carol Miller, Julie Steele, Katie Gregory, Kerri Burns, Stephen Clark, and Tonya Myrup.

Welcome

Julie Steele welcomed everyone to the meeting as Rick was excused from this month's meeting. Kerri has been recruiting new members, who will join us the first part of next year.

Exit Update

DCFS submits quarterly updates about what the State QIC has been doing. Kerri explained what this past quarter's report includes. The quarterly report can be viewed on the DCFS website at http://www.hsdcs.state.ut.us/court_oversight.htm.

- If there are any practice model changes being proposed, this committee needs to review those and respond within 45 days. Julie recommended that we add this as a standing agenda item. Kerri will compile this information before each meeting.
- Kerri will let members know when the upcoming QCRs are scheduled for and will ask committee members to participate if possible.
- Due to budget constraints and the duplication of court reviews, the Foster Care Citizen Review Board will finish up their work in November. Volunteers from the Foster Care Citizen Review Board will be participating in the QCRs and QICs in the future. Julie suggested that we try to fill the responsibilities that the Foster Care Citizen Review Board was performing. Kerri has asked Patricia Worthington to submit a list of names throughout the state and make recommendations of who may be able to participate on QICs. Kerri will report the status of this at the next meeting.

Suggestions from Local QIC/Mentoring Program

The Washington County QIC has made a couple of suggestions for this committee to consider. Handouts were provided for review. The first one included items around youth aging out of foster care.

- Kerri will talk with Jane Lewis, the DCFS Transition to Adult Living Program Administrator to get her input on the recommendations.
- The Court Improvement Project (CIP) has a mentor program they are currently running. Katie gave an update about that program. She suggested that Washington County work with Dorothy from the CIP mentor program to start a mentor program in their area. Katie will send contact information for Dorothy to Kerri so she can share this information in our response to the Washington County QIC.

- Tonya expressed her concerns about other volunteers who do not receive any stipend, so she suggested that we determine if the stipend for mentors is realistic. She suggested using the resources from the Christmas Box House, CASA, and other volunteer organizations to fill the needs for the mentor program. Katie expressed her concern about what the stipend would be used for. The CIP also has funding available for activities for mentors.
- Julie suggested connecting with Big Brothers Big Sisters to recruit volunteers.
- Tonya explained that requiring mentors to attend foster parent training may be problematic. There is other training available that may be more appropriate, or they may want to consider having a separate training for mentors.
- Kerri will call Chantel and talk with her about these ideas and ask that she contact Tonya and Katie for more information about the volunteer groups they are working with. Kerri will also draft a response letter and submit it to the Washington County QIC.

The second recommendation is to have the State QIC lobby to make changes to the Cohabitation Act to exclude kinship. Members expressed concern that the legislature may not be willing to amend this act. Kerri suggested forwarding this recommendation to Judy Hull, the DCFS Kinship Program Administrator, and Duane Betournay, DCFS Director, for their information. Kerri will write a response letter to the Washington County QIC letting them know of this action.

QIC Summit

Kerri explained what plans have been made for the QIC Summit in November.

- Lisa-Michele Church, DHS Executive Director, will be keynote speaker.
- Each QIC will speak about specific items they are accomplishing and one challenge they face as a committee.
- For the State QIC, members suggested highlighting the fetal exposure training (Karen Buchi) and that one of our challenges is recruitment and attendance. Kerri will ask Rick to also speak for the State QIC.
- Duane Betournay will review what comes out of the sustainability report being issued by the court monitor and how the QICs will play a role in sustainability. He will also address how congregate care and kinship fit into the sustainability report.
- Cosette Mills will address federal requirements.
- Other suggestions included:
 - Katie and Tonya will coordinate with Dorothy from the mentoring program to share her video and speak about the mentoring program and how the Christmas Box House has fit into that program.
 - Highlight issues from the National DEC Conference and what is occurring in Utah. Kerri will contact Marjean Searcy to get her input on this recommendation. This falls more into specific training, so it was decided not to highlight this area.
- Katie suggested encouraging regional QICs to network with the local Tables of Six committees. It may be too close to the Summit to pull this in, but we can invite members from the State Table of Six to come speak with the State QIC after the first of the year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 25, 2008, which will be the QIC Summit. It is being proposed that the meeting in December be held on December 15, 2008 due to the holidays. The meeting was adjourned.